

From: Steve Rimicci
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 11:06am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the November 2 settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft.

I believe the settlement is not in the best interests of the computer industry nor in those of the public which they serve. The terms of the settlement often appear to be so vague as to be unenforceable.

I am a software engineer with 20 years experience, and I believe that this does nothing to deal with Microsoft's monopoly on PC operating systems. I personally believe the only solution is for Microsoft to be split into two separate companies. One for Operating Systems and another one for applications.

However, absent that remedy, I believe that there is a worthwhile compromise available, and in essence, it is the position espoused by the Open Software Group. The country will be best served, and business interests will not be harmed, if, as a matter of course, all computer components, whether they are hardware or software, have a required minimum of "behaviors and requirements" publicly stated. Computer specialists with interests to protect will always have clever, superficially plausible defenses for their own "proprietary approach." However, with respect to the interaction of components, regardless of vendor, this should be based upon an "open approach." Therein lies the pathway to the greatest benefit for the greatest number.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Steven Rimicci

20 Simpson Drive
Framingham MA 01701